

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EAGLE FESTIVAL at BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: Program Schedule

## Saturday, March 14, 2015; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (NOTE: THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE)

Time	Activity/Program	Location	Description
Tours			
8:00 – 9:30 am	Birding with a guide (approx. 1 hr. 30 min.)	Education Building	Observe resident and migratory birds, including eagles, Canada geese, ducks, herons and songbirds with guide Terry Allen. Bring binoculars.
10:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm 2:30 pm	Eagle Prowls (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)	Visitor Center Parking Lot	Join our experienced volunteers and staff in a search for bald eagles on the refuge. Seating is limited. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all prowls. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly. Once tickets are gone seats will be filled on a stand by basis.
10:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm 2:30 pm	Wildlife Drive Bus Tours (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)		Join refuge biologists on a tour of the wildlife drive. Learn how the refuge manages habitat for wildlife from the comforts of a commercial bus. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all tours. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly. Once tickets are gone seats will be filled on a stand by basis.
Live Bird and Cultural Programs			
10:00 am	Raptor Identification and Adaptation	Visitor Center Large Program Tent	Meet native birds of prey with naturalist Liz Smith and learn about their very successful hunting adaptations that make them masters of the sky!
11:00 am	Return of the Peregrine		Join falconer Andrew Bullen and learn about the natural history of the peregrine falcon and how falconry techniques were successfully used in the recovery of the peregrine population in the U.S!
12:00 pm	Bald Eagles, A National Success Story		Maryland Park Service “Scales and Tales” Rangers will be sharing information about our national symbol, the bald eagle. See this majestic bird up close and hear its amazing story!
1:00 pm	Raptors from the Zoo		Meet unique birds of prey from the Salisbury Zoo!
2:00 pm	Bald Eagles, A National Success Story		Maryland Park Service “Scales and Tales” Rangers share information about our national symbol, the bald eagle. See this majestic bird up close and hear its amazing story! <b>(Repeat of 12:00 pm program)</b>
3:00 pm	Native American Program		Learn about some of the tools and techniques used by Native Americans with Daniel Firehawk Abbott.
Guest Speakers			
9:00 am	Basic Photography	Visitor Center Auditorium	Tips and advice for basic outdoor and nature photography with Betty and Lynn Whetzel.
10:00 am	A Birder’s Guide to Delmarva		Join American Birding Association President and longtime Delmarva resident Jeffrey Gordon for an exciting armchair tour through the birding year. Jeff will highlight many amazing species to be found by those of us lucky enough to live on or visit the Delmarva Peninsula. A treat for beginning birders as well as experts!
11:00 am	J.N “Ding” Darling		Enjoy this documentary film on the life of J.N. "Ding" Darling, nationally known cartoonist, conservationist and creator of the Federal Duck Stamp. He influenced presidents and won the hearts of American people with his editorial cartoons, and changed America's landscape forever.
12:00 pm	The Art of Bob Hines		Bob Hines (1912-1994) is the only person to hold the title of “National Wildlife Artist”. The art of Bob Hines enlightened millions of citizens about their wondrous natural heritage. Join Hines’s biographer, Dr. John Juriga, to learn about our National Wildlife Artist and his legacy in the art of conservation.

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Guest Speakers (Continued)			
1:00 pm	Birds and Climate Change	Visitor Center Auditorium	Lynsy Smithson-Stanley, deputy director of the National Audubon Society's Climate Initiative, will discuss the research published in Audubon’s “Birds and Climate Change” report. Find out how climate change is altering the ranges of some of America’s favorite birds and learn how we can fight this threat locally and nationally.
2:00 pm	Eagles of the Chesapeake Bay		Enjoy a close-up look into the life cycle and behavior of Chesapeake Bay bald and golden eagles with raptor biologist Craig Koppie and educator Teena Ruark Gorrow. Learn about the diverse survival challenges they face in our changing world even after their recovery as an endangered species.
3:00 pm	Basic Photography		A second chance to learn tips and advice for basic outdoor and nature photography with Betty and Lynn Whetzel. <b>(Repeat of 9:00 am program)</b>
Exhibitors			
All day	Live Birds of Prey	Visitor Center Exhibit Tent	View many different birds of prey species up close with exhibitors from Salisbury Zoo, Carrie Murray Nature Center, and Raptor’s Eye.
1:00-2:00 pm	Eagles on display		Get an up close view of both bald and golden eagles presented by Maryland Park Service’s “Scales and Tales” program.
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Native American Display	Inside Visitor Center	Learn about some of the tools and techniques used by Native Americans with Daniel Firehawk Abbott.
All day	Landscapes of Freedom		Graduate Students in Public History from the UMBC Department of History will provide an "Eagle's Eye View" of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and show you how Harriet Tubman used landmarks and natural features of the area to help people freeing enslavement and seeking freedom.
All day	American Birding Association Info Table		Learn about the American Birding Association (ABA).
Kids’ Stuff			
All day (while supplies last)	Make Your Own Wildlife Button	Visitor Center Kids’ Tent	Color a wildlife picture and then turn it into a button for your shirt!
	Owl Pellet Exploration		Learn about owls, owl pellets, and the foods owls like to eat during this fun activity!
	Thumbprint Bookmarks		Make a wildlife bookmark using your own thumb print to create a unique design.
All day	Wren Nest Box Construction	Outside Visitor Center	Construct a wren nesting box to take home. All materials supplied. <b>This is a “make-and-take” activity. No unbuilt boxes will be sold or distributed.</b>
	Youth Archery Range		Kids can try their hand with the bow and arrow.
	“JAKES” Take Aim BB Gun Shooting Range		Members of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be on hand to help kids learn how to use a BB gun in a safe and fun environment.
All Day	Food	Outside Visitor Center	Purchase some vittles from Boy Scout Pack 532 and the Chicone Ruritan Club.